

### Claims

1 1. A method in a workstation (706) for selecting an application (A, B, or C) and launching  
2 a client in an Internet protocol (IP) network, said method comprising the steps of:

3 downloading a kernel applet from a kernel applet repository (704), said kernel applet  
4 comprising means for accessing from said workstation (706) an application selection  
5 processor repository (701), a selection screen repository (701), and one or more client  
6 repositories (702, 703);

7 downloading by means of said kernel applet an application selection processor from the  
8 application selection processor repository (701);

9 downloading by means of said kernel applet a selection screen from the selection  
10 screen repository (701) for locally selecting an application;

11 locally selecting an application (B) by means of the application selection processor and  
12 the selection screen;

13 determining a client for accessing the selected application (B);

14 downloading by means of said kernel applet a client applet or a client flat file containing  
15 necessary access parameters from a client repository (702, 703) for accessing said  
16 selected application;

17 launching said client within the workstation (706);

18 accessing the selected application (B) using said client.

1 2. The method according to claim 1 wherein the step of determining a client for accessing  
2 the selected application comprises the further step of:

3 selecting a preferred client for the selected application.

1 3. The method according to claim 1 wherein said step of downloading a kernel applet  
2 comprises the further steps of:

3 determining whether a kernel applet is locally available or not;

4 if the kernel applet is not locally available, downloading said kernel applet from a kernel  
5 applet repository (704);

6 if the kernel applet is locally available, determining whether said local kernel applet and  
7 the kernel applet in the kernel applet repository (704) are the same or not;

8 if the local kernel applet and the kernel applet in the kernel applet repository (704) are  
9 not the same, replacing the local kernel applet by the kernel applet in the kernel applet  
10 repository (704).

1 4. The method according to claim 3 wherein said step of downloading an application  
2 selection processor comprises the further steps of:

3 determining whether an application selection processor is locally available or not;

4 if the application selection processor is not locally available, downloading said  
5 application selection processor from an application selection processor repository (701);

6 if the application selection processor is locally available, determining whether said local  
7 application selection processor and the application selection processor in the application  
8 selection processor repository (701) are the same or not;

9 if the local application selection processor and the application selection processor in the  
10 application selection processor repository (701) are not the same, replacing the local  
11 application selection processor by the application selection processor in the application  
12 selection processor repository (701).

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1 5. The method according to claim 1 wherein said step of downloading a selection screen  
2 comprises the further steps of:

3 determining whether a selection screen is locally available or not;

4 if the selection screen is not locally available, downloading said selection screen from  
5 a selection screen repository (701);

6 if the selection screen is locally available, determining whether said local selection  
7 screen and the selection screen in the selection screen repository (701) are the same or  
8 not;

9 if the local selection screen and the selection screen in the selection screen repository  
10 (701) are not the same, replacing the local selection screen by the selection screen in the  
11 selection screen repository (701).

1 6. The method according to claim 1 wherein said client applet is an on-demand client, the  
2 step of downloading an on-demand client comprising the steps of:

3 determining whether an on-demand client is locally available or not;

4 if the on-demand client is not locally available, downloading said on-demand client from  
5 the on-demand client repository (702);

6 if the on-demand client is locally available, determining whether said local on-demand  
7 client and the on-demand client in the on demand client repository (702) are the same or  
8 not;

9 if the local on-demand client and the on-demand client in the on-demand client  
10 repository (702) are not the same, replacing the local on-demand client by the on-demand  
11 client in the on-demand client repository (702).

7. The method according to claim 1 wherein the client flat file for a resident client is an on-  
demand flat file, the step of downloading an on-demand flat file comprising the steps of:

1 determining whether an on-demand flat file for the resident client is locally available or  
2 not;

3 if the on-demand flat file is not locally available, downloading said on-demand flat file  
4 from the on-demand client repository (702);

5 if the on-demand flat file is locally available, determining whether said local on-demand  
6 flat file and the on-demand flat file in the on-demand client repository (702) are the same  
7 or not;

10 if the local on-demand flat file and the on-demand flat file in the on-demand client  
11 repository (702) are not the same, replacing the local on-demand flat file by the on-demand  
12 flat file in the on-demand client repository (702).

1 8. The method according to claim 1 wherein said client flat file is for a truly resident client.

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1 9. The method according to claim 1 wherein the kernel applet repository (704), the  
2 application selection processor repository (701), the selection screen repository (701), the  
3 one or more client repositories (702, 703) are located in a single web server or in a plurality  
4 of web servers (707).

1 10. The method according to claim 1 wherein the steps of downloading comprise the  
2 further steps of:

3 accessing the repositories through a web browser (705).

1 11. The method of claim 1 wherein the step of downloading the kernel applet comprises  
2 the step of:

3 in the web browser (705), receiving, preferably at initialization time, means for  
4 accessing the kernel applet repository (704).

1 12. The method according to claim 1 wherein the kernel applet and the client applet are  
2 coded in Java language and the web browser (705) accessing the kernel applet repository  
3 (704) and client applet repositories (702, 703) are Java enabled.

1 13. The method according to claim 1 wherein:

2 the selected application is a systems network architecture (SNA) application;

3 the client is a Telnet 3270 client; and

4 the application (A, B, C) is accessed through a Telnet 3270 server (T, S).

1 14. A system comprising means adapted for carrying out the method according to any one  
2 of the preceding claims.

3 15. A kernel applet to be downloaded from a web server in a workstation, said kernel applet  
4 comprising;

5 means for accessing from said workstation (706) an application selection processor  
6 repository (701), a selection screen repository (701), and one or more client repositories  
7 (702, 703), said repositories located in one or a plurality of web servers (707);

8 means for downloading from said one or plurality of web servers (707) to said  
workstation (706) an application selection processor, a selection screen, and one or a  
plurality of client applets and/or client flat files.